Freedom fighter status to soldiers who liberated Goa

†349. RAO MAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give 'freedom fighter' status to soldiers who liberated Goa by operation Goa in 1961;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Soldiers who participated in operation Goa in 1961 to liberate Goa do not fulfil the eligibility conditions as laid down under the Swatantrata Samman Sainik Pension Scheme.

Crimes against women

350. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Report of the National Crime Records Bureau (Chennai), 1999, serious crimes against women are still high in 23 mega cities in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact some women's groups contend that there is an increase in crimes against women in the last decade; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) The incidence of crime in the 23 mega cities as per information received from the National Crime Records Bureau, is as follows:—

1997	1998	1999	2000
13690	15222	16807	18273 (Provisional)

(b) The incidence of crime committed against women during the last decade is as follows:—

Year	Total Incidence
1991	74093
1992	79037
1993	83954
1994	101657
1995	109259
1996	115723
1997	121265
1998	131475
1999	135771
2000	131764

(c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of Crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has, from time to time, been writing to the State Government stressing upon them the need to take preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures in connection with crime against women. The advisories issued to the State Governments include *inter alia*, setting up of exclusive women police stations, setting up women police cells in police stations, setting up of Crime against Women Cells in districts where they do not exit, hearing of rape

cases by a court presided over by a lady magistrate, investigation of rape case of a victim less then 18 years of age by women police officers and in the presence of parents and/or relatives, wider recruitment of women in police forces setting up of Special Women Courts in each district, appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers etc.

Killings of BSF Jawans by Bangladesh Rifles

351. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the actual number of BSF Jawans killed by Bangladesh Rifles at the Border area recently;

(b) what are the reasons behind these killings;

(c) what security measures are being taken by Government to avoid such incidents in future; and

(d) what is the outcome of dialogue between heads of India and Bangladesh Governments to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHR I. D. SWAMI): (a) 16 Border Security Force personnel were killed by the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR);

(b) The BDR forces resorted to unwarranted and unprovoked intrusion into the village of Pyrdiwah in the East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya along the India-Bangladesh border on the intervening night of April 15-16, 2001. Following the unilateral action of the BDR forces to disturb the *status quo*, the BSF troops commenced intensive patrolling along India—Bangladesh border. One such BSF patrol from the BOP Mankachar went missing on April 18, 2001. The BDR forces brutally killed 16 BSF personnel.

(c) The BSF have been instructed to remain in a position of high alert along the India-Bangladesh border.

(d) Prime Minister of India conveyed to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh India's deep sense of hurt and anguish over the inhuman treatment meted out to our BSF personnel. Prime Minister of